

Maryland's highest court reinstates the murder conviction for a man who helped kill two Northwest High students.

The Maryland Court of Appeals handed down its opinion yesterday in the case of Rony Galicia, 30, of Boyds, MD.

This reverses an opinion from the Court of Special Appeals and reinstates Galicia's convictions on two counts of first-degree premeditated murder, two counts of first-degree felony murder, conspiracy to commit murder, two counts of use of a firearm in the commission of a felony, and armed robbery.

In June 2017, on the eve of their graduation from Northwest High School, Shadi Ali Najjar, 17, and Artem Ziberov, 18, were ambushed and shot multiple times while they sat in a parked car in Montgomery Village. Four men, including Rony Galicia, were convicted of the murders in three separate trials. The Court of Special Appeals reversed Galicia's conviction in January, 2021, on the basis of two evidentiary issues that arose during his trial, but the higher Court of Appeals has now reached a different conclusion on both of those issues.

Read the full opinion here:

<https://mdcourts.gov/data/opinions/coa/2022/5a21.pdf>

"The opinion from Maryland's highest court reaffirms what the State believed from the beginning. Rony Galicia is, indeed, responsible for the violent deaths of these two teenagers along with his co-defendants. We are pleased to learn the jury's decision will be upheld and Galicia will continue to serve out his sentence of life without the possibility of parole. Our hearts are with the families of the victims today," said State's Attorney John McCarthy.